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A structural member

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ABSTRACT

This invention relates generally to a structural member (10) which is I-shaped in cross-section with each of opposing edge flanges (14A or 14B) extending laterally both sides of a web (12). The elongate web (12) is constructed of expanded metal in which a series of parallel and longitudinally extending slits (16) are formed. The web (12) is expanded transversely so that the slits (16) form openings (18) in the expanded web (12). The structural member (10) of one particular embodiment is designed as a stud member being cold roll formed from a relatively light gauge steel material typically having a wall thickness of about 0.4 mm. The opposing edge flanges (14A or 14B) each include a pair of opposing transversely spaced flange walls such as (20 and 22). An outermost (20) of the flange walls (20 and 22) is relatively broad and flat so as to present a cladding element bearing area which limits flange deflection particularly when it is nailed for fixing cladding. The relatively light gauge flange walls (20 or 22) have improved nailability and together provide enhanced nail retention.

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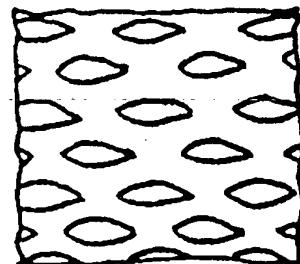
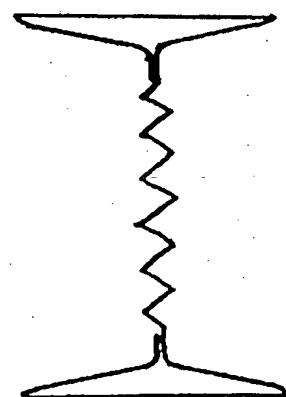
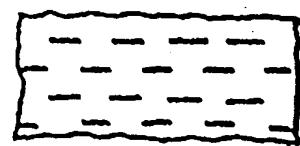
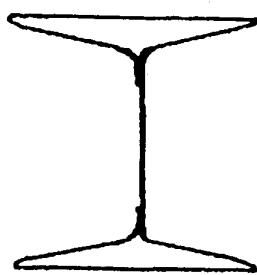


FIG. 1

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